

# City of Minneapolis Employment & Training

## Committed to Growing a Competitive Workforce

### Monthly Update – September, 2013



#### **METP Employment Service Providers of the Year**

On September 24, the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Workforce Council honored East Side Neighborhood Services and HIRED as “Partners of the Year.”

East Side Neighborhood Services (ESNS) was selected for its excellent service to adult job seekers. The agency not only provided high quality counseling to all job seekers, but delivered exceptional retention services, helping its clients maintain their place in the economy.



*[Left-right: Ken Lundquist, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Bill Laden, ESNS Director, Sonya Heglund & Roberto Martinez, ESNS, Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director, Curt Holewa, ESNS Board of Directors Chair]*

HIRED was selected as Youth Partner of the Year, performing outstanding service to Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21; providing over 100 youth with comprehensive, individualized education, employment and training services.



*[Left-right: Juan Mitchell, Jan West, Evita Ellis, Kelley Eubanks, HIRED, Tyler Olson, Minneapolis Youth Council Chair, Jane Samargia, HIRED Director, Kari Felegy, HIRED, Teresa Harrold, METP, Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director]*

#### **Minneapolis Launches Platform to Employment Program**

At a kick-off event September 23, the City of Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), The WorkPlace, and other partners officially launched Platform to Employment, a proven employment program aimed at returning the long-term unemployed and veterans back to work.

Minneapolis is the sixth city in the nation to announce the expansion of the Platform to Employment program with the support of AARP Foundation, Citi Community Development, and the Walmart Foundation.

Event speaker and DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben, remarked, “This [Platform to Employment] is a successful public-private partnership that addresses the need for the long-term unemployed to return to work and employers’ need to recruit skilled workers.”

The program offers a five-week preparatory program which includes workshops on resume writing, interview preparation, self-marketing, and other skills. Additionally, each participant and their family will also have access to behavioral health services and counseling through NorthPoint Health and Wellness.

Following the preparatory program, Platform to Employment helps participants find positions with local employers who have job openings. The program subsidizes the participants’ wages during an eight-week trial period.

“Minneapolis Employment and Training has long been a leader in workforce development partnering, innovating and creative problem solving,” said Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director. “We are excited about our partnership with The WorkPlace and are looking forward to launching this innovative program which adds another tool to our existing toolbox and yet another way to tackle long-term unemployment.”

Find out more about Platform to Employment and some of its new participants in the following Star Tribune article by Neal St. Anthony.

[Platform to Employment Project Offers Hope to Long-term Jobless:](#) A national workforce council is behind a local program to give veterans and older workers realistic shots at employment.

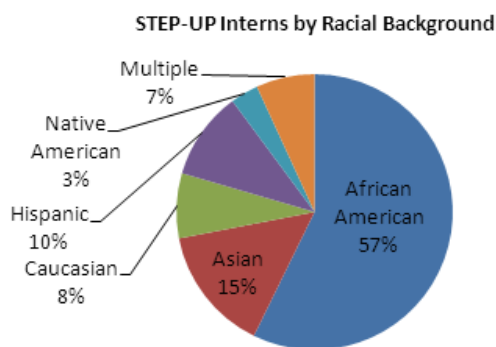
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## STEP-UP Is Working to Address the Achievement Gap

Recent data published by Generation Next shows that youth of color still lag behind white students on key indicators including high school graduation rates and post-secondary training completion. During this past summer, of the 1,800 youth that worked in STEP-UP internships, 92% were youth of color. (See Chart)

Each STEP-UP intern received training to prepare them for success in the workplace and then put that training to work by bringing their skills and talents to one of STEP-UP's over 230 participating employers.

STEP-UP interns not only benefit from the experience by creating a work history, but by learning and establishing their networks – whether it be at a local non-profit or a Fortune 500 company. The double-win in this work is clear. Companies add diversity to their business and participate in developing their future workforce while interns meet the leaders and gain entrance into the companies they will be looking for work in the future.



## Twin Cities Job Growth is a Regional Proposition

*Star Tribune: By Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP,*  
"Minneapolis and the region are partners in job growth. There are challenges, but fortunately, many strengths."  
[Read here.](#)

## Some Employers See Perks of Hiring Older Applicants:

*Star Tribune, By Matt Sedensky*  
"As a wave of baby boomers seeks to stay on the job later in life, some employers are finding older workers are precisely what they need." [Read the whole story.](#)

For more information on Minneapolis Employment & Training's services, contact  
Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director: 612-673-6226.  
[METP Website](#)

## Good News for the Minnesota Economy

From the U.S. Department of Commerce:

- Minnesota is 5th fastest growing economy in U.S.
- 4 Minnesota metropolitan areas ranked in the top quarter of the 381 U.S. metros for GDP growth.
- The Twin Cities economy grew at its fastest pace in nearly a decade with 3.9 % growth.

[See full Commerce Department report.](#)

From The Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)

- Job vacancies hit a 12-year high in the 2nd quarter.
- 58.3% of the openings were in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Find DEED report at [Positively Minnesota.](#)

## Big Changes in GED Testing Begin in January, 2014

Starting Jan. 2, 2014, anyone who has not completed all GED tests with passing scores and the required overall point total will have to start the entire test battery over. The next series of tests will be administered using computer-based testing (CBT) only, no pencil-and-paper tests will be given after this date. See the Assessment Guide for Educators at [GED Testing Service.](#)

## Upcoming Events

October 4, 2013: Construction Industry Open House  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Construction Laborers Training Center, 2350 Main Street, Lino Lakes, MN  
\*RSVP REQUIRED. Please call 651-653-6710.

October 9, 2013: Downtown Minneapolis Job Fair  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Minneapolis Convention Center, Room L100, 1301 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN  
[Job Fair Flyer](#)

October 12, 2013: Free Multicultural Career Fair, Education & Health Expo  
10 AM-3 PM, ESNS, 1700 2nd Street, NE, Minneapolis, MN [See more.](#)

October 16, 2013: Youth Council Meeting  
8:30 AM, SMCpros, 333 Washington Avenue North, Suite 403, Minneapolis, MN

November 7, 2013: Career Pathway Forum  
9 AM-3:30 PM, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul, MN  
"Strengthening Your Career Pathway Systems: Tools, Tips and Tactics." Find more info and registration [HERE.](#)